

**AUSTRIAN DRIVE CHECKED, ROME EXPERTS HOLD**  
Pressure of 400,000 Men Fail to Smash Way Through Italian Lines  
ATTACKS BEATEN OFF

ROME, May 19.—Although the Austro-Hungarian forces numbered approximately 400,000 men and hundreds of his guns for their drive against the Italians, it was declared today by military experts that the offensive had been checked. It is declared here that German army officers helped plan the Austro-Hungarian offensive and that the drive was decided upon at the recent council held in Vienna. After a brief bombardment of the Italian lines the Austro-Hungarians, using the mass formation tactics of the Germans, attacked the Italian positions in the Ledro Valley, in the Lagarina Valley, in the valley of the Upper Adige, on the Upper Cordevole and north of Montafone. Everywhere, except at a few points where the advanced lines of the Italians were withdrawn voluntarily for strategic reasons, the attacks were beaten off. The Austro-Hungarian forces sustained severe losses, due to the machine gun fire and the curtains of fire from the Italian artillery. It is believed to be the plan of the Italian General Staff to allow the Teutons to wear themselves out and already there are signs of fatigue. Despite the vigor of the fire from the big guns of the Austrians, the Italian losses have been insignificant.

**AUSTRIAN TRENTINO ATTACKS MAY MARK ISONZO OFFENSIVE**  
Zugna Torna Now a Formidable Natural Fortress in Italian Hands

The attacks which the Austrians are developing on a limited section of the Italian front, between Adige and the Astico valleys and extending eastward to the valley of the Brenta and Monte Collo are apparently the beginning of the offensive of which hints were found recently in the Italian reports announcing movement of enemy troops in several sectors. However the attack seems now limited to the sector just south of Rovereto, on the apex of a triangle formed by the Zugna Torna mountain rising between the Adige and the Terragnolo valley, both of which are dominated by Italian guns which ever since last autumn have been mounted on the summit. This mountain has been subjected frequently to bombardments by Austrian batteries from the numerous forts protecting Rovereto on the west, and to infantry attacks when the position was not yet consolidated and thoroughly organized as it is now, but both failed to dislodge the Italians. It seems that the present volume of the attack is immensely superior to any previous one, but the position of the Zugna Torna is now much stronger than some months ago, especially owing to the Italian conquest of the whole valley from the Adige, three miles south of Rovereto, to barely one and a half mile north of it. That means that the Italians have not to fear an attack on the western slopes of the Zugna. The mountain forms a salient protruding its apex up to a fraction of a mile from Rovereto, where the valleys of the Adige and the Terragnolo join. The salient is crossed northward by the Vallarsa road, which gives the Italians a valuable line of communication. In the whole the Zugna Torna and Coni Zugna are a formidable natural fortress which by this time should be so armed and organized as to be quite impregnable. The retreat from advanced position is admitted from Rome is no surprise. There are positions which are simply a step to a definite line of resistance. They were occupied as such, preliminary to a further advance, which for one reason or another, could not be made afterward. Being exposed to cross fire from enemy batteries, they must naturally be evacuated as soon as the enemy threatens them seriously. It does not seem, however, that the attacks of this sector of the front will be continued. Probably they have been made for two reasons: that of relieving the pressure the Italians were bearing upon Rovereto, the operations against which have never ceased, though always of apparently minor importance, and that of attracting considerable forces on the Adige Valley, of inducing General Cadorna to mass his forces along the Trentino front and then develop the real offensive elsewhere, perhaps on the Isonzo front.

**PEACE NOW POSSIBLE IF UNITED STATES ACTS**  
Continued from Page One  
most frank discussion of peace rumors in circulation in European capitals yet passed by the censor.

STOCKHOLM, May 19.—The Neutral Conference for Continuous Mediation, the official organization of the Ford peace expedition, today cabled to President Wilson an appeal to initiate an official peace conference of representatives of neutral nations. "All Europe expects America will act," is the concluding statement in the appeal. WASHINGTON, May 19.—President Wilson's views on the prospects of peace in Europe are expected to become known when he addresses the League to Enforce Peace here on May 26 or 27. While no details of what the President will say have been disclosed, it is understood he will make a statement calculated to attract interest in European capitals. Mr. Wilson fully realizes the significance of anything he may say on the subject at present. The President is known to be giving deep consideration to the possibility of bringing about peace, and to have a collection of every authoritative statement on the subject made by any responsible official in the belligerent nations since the outbreak of the war. While officials realize that much of the peace discussion may be propaganda aimed to fix the responsibility for continuing the war—they nevertheless believe it is entirely possible the time is rapidly approaching when peace proposals may be welcomed by all the belligerents.

**WILSON MAY GIVE PEACE HINT IN ADDRESS TO LEAGUE**  
President Expected to State America's Position Next Week

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**THIEVES BANQUET IN STORE**  
Having Satisfied Inner Man, They Take \$75 and Depart

Thieves that visited the Childs grocery store at the southwest corner of 2d and Ritten streets early today feasted on cakes and other toothsome articles among the stock before they made off with some \$75 from the store. They have not been captured, but Policeman Isaac Greene thinks three men whom he saw loitering about the neighborhood shortly after midnight were the intruders. The store occupies part of a two-story building. The dwelling portion is untenanted. The burglary was discovered by the store manager at 7 o'clock, the opening hour. The safe door was closed, as usual, but a pile of crumbs and wood dust on the floor excited suspicion. The lower half of the door between the store and dining room had been cut off, apparently with an auger and bit. The thieves had entered by the opening thus afforded after scaling a rear fence and forcing a kitchen window. They had worked more than an hour to bore the numerous holes necessary to split the door. The mechanism of the safe was not injured, and it is believed it was opened by some one familiar with the combination.

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**MOTHER AND DAUGHTER**  
Mrs. George Barnett, wife of the former commander of marines at the Navy Yard here, appears below in the uniform she wears at Chevy Chase where she is taking the military course with her daughter, Miss Leila Barnett, above.

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No other gift is so human. Nothing else creates so close a bond of affection. She idealizes it. She cherishes it as an heirloom for her daughter. It is carefully preserved to be handed down to future generations. It takes up no more room than an upright, yet it has all the glorious sonority, the mellowness of tone, the superb richness of the largest grands. We have a plan of payment that makes it easy for you to gratify the laudable ambition to have a Grand Piano in your home. Just send us your address on the coupon below and we will gladly show you how convenient we can make it.

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1306 Chestnut St., Philadelphia  
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PHILADELPHIA 254 Kensington Ave. 300 East State St. 122 West Main St. WILMINGTON 179 South Main Street

**KITCHENER REFUSED TROOPS FOR IRELAND, BIRRELL TESTIFIES**  
Former Chief Secretary Puts Blame for Revolution Upon Ulster's Example Before Royal Inquiry  
TRIBUTE FOR REDMOND

LONDON, May 19.—Premier Asquith returned from Ireland today after five days' conference on the political situation there. Both Lord Kitchener, the War Secretary, and Viscount John French, Commander-in-Chief of the home defenses, were begged to send more troops into Ireland before the Sinn Fein uprising, but refused to, according to the testimony given today by Augustine Birrell, former Chief Secretary for Ireland, before the Royal Commission investigating the Irish revolt. The request for troops was made by Mr. Birrell himself, who tried to persuade the War Office that a display of military force in the streets of Dublin might stave off the threatened rising. Mr. Birrell said he knew five days before the German filibuster and was sunk that a ship with arms was on its way to the Irish coast. This information had been received in a letter and immediate action was taken. "I was very uneasy about Dublin, but I did not expect trouble of such widespread proportions," said Mr. Birrell. "The revolution was doomed to failure from the start, but if the Germans had landed with arms and ammunition the whole population might have joined in. "It was dangerous to consider the disarmament of Ireland, and we thought it difficult to prove that arming and drilling was associated with the enemy. There were a considerable number of priests who were a source of disaffection. One of the most formidable anti-recruiting pamphlets ever written came from the Bishop of Limerick. Tens of thousands of them were sold. Mr. Birrell said he was made to see the futility of his statement was directed toward showing that he was not responsible for conditions. The former Secretary said he believed that Sinn Fein were dangerous, but that John Redmond regarded them as negligible. "John Dillon was with Mr. Redmond in the stand against intervention," said Mr. Birrell. Augustine Birrell, former Secretary for Ireland, took the witness stand today at the investigation into the Irish uprising and corroborated the statement of Sir Matthew Nathan, the chief points of which were: 1.—That the Sinn Fein received financial aid from the United States; 2.—That the British authorities knew of plans of the uprising, but were afraid to act. "If the home rule bill had not passed there would have been a great explosion of rage and disappointment in Ireland and the United States," said Mr. Birrell. "Events in Ulster and activities of gun runners on the Larne undoubtedly had great effect on disloyalists elsewhere." Mr. Birrell paid tribute to John Redmond, leader of the Irish Nationalists, when he said: "When war broke out Ireland, through the patriotism of Mr. Redmond, preserved an unbroken front. It is impossible to over-estimate the effect of the death of Sir Edward Carson (leader of the Ulster Unionists) in the cabinet upon the Irish people. If Mr. Redmond had accepted office in the same cabinet, he would not have retained his leadership of the Nationalists. "No doubt German assistance was at the bottom of the outbreak." Mr. Birrell said that there has been a dangerous movement under way in Ireland for two years, and that a policy of disarmament would have been disastrous. Asked by Lord Hardinge, president of the investigating commission, why no action had been taken by the Dublin Castle authorities in the face of all the evidence of a threatening revolt, Sir Matthew gave this answer: "We deferred because we were afraid to enforce the act forbidding drilling under arms; we deferred virtually for political purposes." Sir Matthew also disclosed for the first time the fact that the military service act was one of the indirect causes of the revolution.

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Manufacturers' Clean-Up of Ladies' & Misses' Tailored Suits Of Gabardine—Wool Poplin—Serges. \$25 and \$20 value. \$15.00  
We offer at.....  
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Other Styles and Cuts of Suits—\$12.00 to \$30.00.  
Panamas, \$5.00 and \$6.00  
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Library and Parlor Tables, in mahogany and oak, \$25.00 values, to \$20.00.  
Refrigerators, \$12.50 values, to \$9.50.  
Go-Carts, \$15.50 values, to \$12.00.  
Gas Ranges, Washing Machines, Wringers, Window and Door Screens  
Matting Rugs, 9x12, \$3.75.  
Grass Rugs, 9x12, \$8.50.  
Wool & Fibre Rugs, \$6.00, \$8.50, \$10.00.  
Rag Rugs, 9x12, \$9.50.  
China & Japanese Matting, \$8.00, \$10.00, \$12.00.  
(Per roll of 40 yds.)  
Print Linoleum, 50c, 65c yd.  
Inlaid Linoleum, 90c, \$1, \$1.25 yard.  
Talking Machines, with all latest improvements in mechanism, all finishes. \$25.00 to \$200

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**HEADS ELEVATOR INSPECTOR**  
R. A. Pitts Gets Permanent Appointment as Bureau Chief

Robert A. Pitts, 5443 Locust street, who some months ago through the influence of Harry A. Mackay, Vice leader of the Police Ward, was provisionally appointed Chief of the Bureau of Elevator Inspection, today received his permanent appointment, his position from Director Wilson, of the Department of Public Safety. Pitts headed an eligible list made up today by the Civil Service Commission, and received the highest score. Other eligibles were William Bartine, 2333 West Ontario street, and Robert Smith, 3051 Rorer street. Appointments made by Director Wilson, man of the Department of Public Safety, include Frank F. Mann, 1228 Rogers street, inspector, Bureau of Highways, at a salary of \$1200, and Fred Nardy, 1223 Spruce street, pavser, Bureau of Highways, \$975 a day.

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Extension Tables, \$15.00 value, to \$12.00.  
Parlor and Library Suites, 3 pieces, \$35.00 value, to \$25.00.  
Library and Parlor Tables, in mahogany and oak, \$25.00 values, to \$20.00.  
Refrigerators, \$12.50 values, to \$9.50.  
Go-Carts, \$15.50 values, to \$12.00.  
Gas Ranges, Washing Machines, Wringers, Window and Door Screens  
Matting Rugs, 9x12, \$3.75.  
Grass Rugs, 9x12, \$8.50.  
Wool & Fibre Rugs, \$6.00, \$8.50, \$10.00.  
Rag Rugs, 9x12, \$9.50.  
China & Japanese Matting, \$8.00, \$10.00, \$12.00.  
(Per roll of 40 yds.)  
Print Linoleum, 50c, 65c yd.  
Inlaid Linoleum, 90c, \$1, \$1.25 yard.  
Talking Machines, with all latest improvements in mechanism, all finishes. \$25.00 to \$200

Having Satisfied Inner Man, They Take \$75 and Depart

These steamships were torpedoed the day before yesterday off the Swedish island of Landsort, in the Baltic. The Kolga was attacked at 5 p. m., being shelled by the submarine for 20 minutes. Two members of the crew were slightly injured. The Bianca was then torpedoed and sunk. Thirteen of the crew were picked up by a Swedish steamer. Four others, including the captain and second mate, are missing. Half an hour later the Bianca was shelled and then torpedoed. The attack occurred in the same vicinity as that on the Kolga. The captain was taken prisoner. Two members of the crew were injured slightly. They and the other men were picked up by the vessel which rescued the men from the Kolga.

Following the conference, it was said a letter would be sent to the President asking whether he had any previous engagements preventing him from being in Independence Day or whether he was disposed to speak here, before sending a committee of Councilmen to Washington formally to invite him.

Ask for Imported \$30 Special Suitings. . . \$30  
BRADBURN & NIGRO  
Tailors to Particular Men  
Cor. 13th & Sansom  
Suits \$25 to \$50

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**TEUTONS CAPTURE FRENCH TRENCHES ON VERDUN FRONT**  
Win Ground Along Hautcourt-Esnes Road in New Attack  
ARTILLERY FIRE INTENSE

BERLIN, May 19.—French trenches along the Hautcourt-Esnes highroad, northwest of Verdun, as far as the corner of Canard forest, have been captured by the Germans. It was announced today by the War Office. The Germans captured nine officers and 120 men. The Hautcourt-Esnes highway runs between Hill 287 and Hill 304. French attacks against the German position on Hill 304 broke down, the official statement said. First Lieutenant Boelle, of the German air corps, has shot down his 16th enemy aeroplane. The following is the text of the official report: West front—French trenches along both sides of the Hautcourt-Esnes high road as far as the corner of Canard forest, have been captured. We took nine officers and 120 men. East of the Meuse, the artillery fire of both sides increased temporarily to great violence. Officers on both sides are active. South of Hill 304, First Lieutenant Boelle shot down his 16th enemy aeroplane. The French aerodrome at Lunville and the railroad station and military establishments at Epinal were bombarded. East front—There is nothing to report. Balkan front—An air squadron attacked the enemy's camps near Kulus, Causica, Mihalova and Sanonica.

**THIEVES BANQUET IN STORE**  
Having Satisfied Inner Man, They Take \$75 and Depart

Thieves that visited the Childs grocery store at the southwest corner of 2d and Ritten streets early today feasted on cakes and other toothsome articles among the stock before they made off with some \$75 from the store. They have not been captured, but Policeman Isaac Greene thinks three men whom he saw loitering about the neighborhood shortly after midnight were the intruders. The store occupies part of a two-story building. The dwelling portion is untenanted. The burglary was discovered by the store manager at 7 o'clock, the opening hour. The safe door was closed, as usual, but a pile of crumbs and wood dust on the floor excited suspicion. The lower half of the door between the store and dining room had been cut off, apparently with an auger and bit. The thieves had entered by the opening thus afforded after scaling a rear fence and forcing a kitchen window. They had worked more than an hour to bore the numerous holes necessary to split the door. The mechanism of the safe was not injured, and it is believed it was opened by some one familiar with the combination.

**POPE'S NOTE ON U-BOATS**  
LONDON, May 19.—Coincident with the announcement in the House of Commons that representations had been made to Germany by the Vatican with a view to inducing her to abandon submarine warfare, came Stockholm dispatches telling of the destruction of three German ships in the Baltic, indicating the opening of an active allied undersea boat campaign in that sea. Three German steamships have been sunk in the Baltic by submarines of the Allies. Some dispatches from Stockholm say the submarines are Russian, but other correspondents declare they are British, probably being the submarines which wrought havoc to German shipping in the Baltic last fall and which are believed to have laid up for the winter in Russian Baltic ports. A Copenhagen dispatch to the Exchange Telegraph says that the number of British submarines operating in the Baltic is large. They are out in the southern and eastern portions of the sea, which is now ice-free, the correspondent adds. The sinking of two of the German steamships by a submarine is reported in a Reuter dispatch from Stockholm. The steamships were the Kolga, Hamburg for Stockholm, and the Bianca. These steamships were torpedoed the day before yesterday off the Swedish island of Landsort, in the Baltic. The Kolga was attacked at 5 p. m., being shelled by the submarine for 20 minutes. Two members of the crew were slightly injured. The Bianca was then torpedoed and sunk. Thirteen of the crew were picked up by a Swedish steamer. Four others, including the captain and second mate, are missing. Half an hour later the Bianca was shelled and then torpedoed. The attack occurred in the same vicinity as that on the Kolga. The captain was taken prisoner. Two members of the crew were injured slightly. They and the other men were picked up by the vessel which rescued the men from the Kolga.

**GERMAN VESSELS SENT DOWN IN BALTIC, APPARENTLY BY SAME ASSAILANT**

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**PRESIDENT WILL BE INVITED**  
Fourth of July Committee and Mayor Decide to Write to Wilson

The first move to have President Wilson come to this city for the local Fourth of July celebration was made when Mayor Smith conferred in his office with John H. Baisley, chairman of the Fourth of July Committee, and Joseph P. Gaffney, chairman of the Subcommittee on Speeches. Following the conference, it was said a